

## SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

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Tuesday, August 1, 2017, 6:00 p.m, Old Schoolhouse Common

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Present: Selectboard members Laurie Colgan, Chris Martin and Andy Perchlik; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Joe Mangan (Cemetery Sexton); Catarina Davis; Jennifer Garland; Dan Tetreault (Road Foreman); Jeff Kantor and Tim Palmer (Hollister Hill Apartments)

At 6:00 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Martin

**Changes or additions to the agenda:** none

**Public Comment:** none

**Review and Approval of Minutes:** The Board received a letter from Dan and Dimples Mucherino disagreeing with the way the minutes of the previous meeting were written. The Board approved the minutes with one addition.

**Cemeteries:** Sexton Joe Mangan explained that there is a conflict between members of the Hollister family regarding locations of burial sites in the Rich-Hollister cemetery. The cemetery is private but the Town signed an agreement with the family in 1947, agreeing to perpetually care for the cemetery. Since the Town doesn't sell lots, Joe is unsure how to allow people to reserve lots. He suggested requiring a monument foundation to be placed in order to reserve a spot, and reserving the burial sites on a first-come, first-served basis, and he would like to require a particular design for gravestones to fit in with the rest of the cemetery. Andy questioned whether the Town has the right to set restrictions that are not stated in the agreement, and the Board suggested that Joe should contact the Hollister family and ask them if they want to clarify the roles of the Town and the family.

The Board discussed hiring someone to trim a tree or trees hanging over the cemetery. Chris noted that the trees are on private property but the town will need to trim them in order to protect the old gravestones.

**Vicious Dog Hearing:** Chris called the hearing to order at 7:11 p.m. Catarina Davis, Jennifer Garland, and James Arisman were sworn in. James gave a summary of what happened. On July 26, 2017 Jennifer Garland and her daughter were chased and attacked by dogs in front of 1486 Holt Road. Ms. Garland explained that she and her daughter were riding bicycles when they were attacked by three Labradoodles. She received a scratch from one of the dogs' teeth, and her daughter received a significant puncture bite. She called the Vermont State Police and took her daughter to the emergency room at Central Vermont Medical Center. Her daughter is 10 years old. James confirmed that he saw the wound and it was a deep bite. In response to his questions, Jennifer confirmed that the dogs were in the road and the attack was unprovoked.

Catarina Davis appeared on behalf of her mother. She confirmed that she thought she had the dogs under control but she did not. She has been working to bring the underground fence closer to the house. She has stocked up on batteries and ordered new collars.

Chris asked Jennifer whether Mrs. Davis offered to pay her daughter's medical expenses; she did not.

James provided a list of all of the complaints against the Davis dogs, dating back to 2011. He noted that the underground fence does not work all of the time. He noted that these dogs have bit someone twice now, and the measures that have been taken have not been sufficient to protect the public. He submitted a motion for citations, with fines for violations of the ordinances, but noted that it would not protect the public. He suggests that the Selectboard should order Mrs. Davis to erect a fence of sufficient size and strength to keep the dogs on their own property.

Andy stated that there have been too many times that the dogs have been out without their collars, and he has heard from people who are worried about going by the house in case the dogs are out. James noted that people also worry about hitting the dogs with their car.

Laurie agreed that a physical fence is going to be the best way to protect the dogs and the public. She noted that the unlicensed dog needs to be licensed. She suggested that perhaps the Town would forego the fine if the fence is built within a short time frame.

Catarina asked whether the Town would let her install a run. The Board denied that request; they explained that a run would not be sufficient because there is still a potential for the dogs to be let out without being put on the run.

Laurie suggested putting a request on Front Porch Forum to ask if there are people who are getting rid of a fence. Chris suggested that perhaps if homes could be found for one or two of the dogs, they might not be a problem.

James will draft the protective order. The Board discussed the terms of the order. Jennifer asked that the dogs be kept on a leash when they are outside until the fence is built. Bobbi noted that the Dog Officer made a call to Mrs. Davis that morning informing her that the dogs were chasing someone with a stroller, but they were out and able to bite someone later the same day.

The Board told Catarina that the dogs need to be on a leash whenever they are outside until a fence can be built, or they will need to be removed from town.

**Bobbi left the meeting.**

**Road Crew position:** Laurie moved to go into Executive session and Chris 2ed to do job interviews. Dan stayed for the executive session.

The Board came out of Executive Session.

Hollister Hill Apartments: Jeff Kantor and Tim Palmer from Housing Foundation came in and discussed the loan documents for the Hollister Hill Apartment Project. Selectboard asked questions and then agreed to sign the loan documents. The documents needed a notary thus it was agreed that Chris would meet Jeff and Tim at the town clerk offices Wednesday morning so Bobbi could be the Notary Public on the signatures.

Jeff and Tim left the meeting.

**Road Crew position:** Went into executive session on a motion from Andy and second by Chris to deliberate on the applicants interviewed and the hire of a new road crew member. Dan participated in the Executive session

Came out of executive session

**Personnel Policy:** Chris moved to approve the new overtime pay changes to the Personnel Policy as presented by the Town Clerk, 2ed by Laurie

Select board members reviewed and signed bills and a catering permit for beer and wine for an event at Groton/new Discovery.

Selects reviewed and discussed the correspondences. No action taking

Selects discussed a pending tax sale. No action taking.

Meeting ended at 10:02

Respectfully submitted,  
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk  
Andrew Perchlik, Selectboard Member

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the August 1, 2017 Selectboard Meeting.  
A True Record. Attest, \_\_\_\_\_, Town Clerk

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